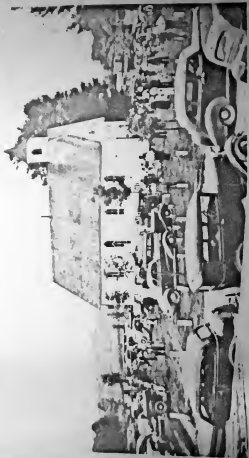


West Virginia Teachers' Project
RESEARCH INFORMATION REPORT

Subject Pocahontas County History Date Dec. 12, 1940
 Chapter 6 Religion
Research Worker Juanita S. Dilley Date Research Taken Nov. 6, Dec. 9, 18
Typist Juanita S. Dilley Date Typed Dec. 12, 18
Source Church Records Date Filed _____
 Mr., Mrs. Sammers Sutton

Mrs. Adam Weaver, Mrs Rachel Arbogast, Deed Book 26 page
121. I talked it over with Moscoe Brown concerning the
church around Arbovale and Greenbank and he helped me to
connect one church with the other and told me what he knew a
about them.







Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.
Chapter 3 Religion

ARBOVALE M. E. CHURCH

The first church built in this community was the old log church known as Bear Creek Union Chapel. Tradition is that it was built some time prior to 1800, but no deed was given until the land came into the possession of James Tallman who gave a deed to the land on July 6, 1831. This church was used by both Presbyterians and Methodists at first, but later some misunderstanding arose between them and the Methodists withdrew from the church and built and dedicated an old log church at Greenbank in 1839, known as New Salem. The Presbyterians then decided to build a better church and ~~about~~ 1850 Liberty Presbyterian church near the high school was completed and dedicated. The Methodists not wishing to be outdone decided that they, too, would build a better church, so after about seventeen years of service New Salem was abandoned and the present Greenbank church was built in 1856.

The old Pine Grove school house was used as a community center, for church services and singing for about 16 years. At one time when a revival was in progress, the people began to shout, and the floor broke through, and the stove fell over. The meeting was broken up for that night, but the next day Hiram Woodruff repaired the floor and the meeting continued.

In 1895 a movement began to build a church at Arbovale. Some of the people wanted the church located near the old Pine Grove school house, and withdrew from the church because

their wish was not granted.

The deed for the land was given on March 8, 1895 by James T. Sutton and Mary E. Sutton his wife to David C. Shears, U. C. Arbogast, Joe. W. Riley, Jas. T. Sutton and Brown M. Arbogast, trustees.

Some money was collected and carpenters from Virginia were hired and ~~begun the work~~ ^{worked on the work}, but as soon as the money was all used they went away and left it unfinished. Local carpenters refused to finish what others had begun, so the church stood there unfinished for a period of three years. Finally it was finished by S. W. Brown. It was dedicated in September of 1898. Some of the early members were Adam Arbogast, U. C. Arbogast, Benjamin M. Arbogast, A. P. Arbogast, James Sutton, Mary Sutton, Rachel Arbogast, Sherman Sutton, Brown Arbogast, John Sutton, John Arbogast, and J. W. Riley.

There were either no records kept or they had been destroyed for the earliest records found at the parsonage were for 1919-1920 and were made by Rev. Sutton. A note made by him was as follows, " This record began with the year 1919-1920. Hitherto the records seem to have been poorly kept. This has been the result of an oversight and largely due to the fact of a changing charge. The year for which records begin had for its pastor J. M. Sutton, a boy reared in this community, helped to build the church at Arbovale some twenty or more years ago, was converted and joined the church and from here joined the travelling connection of the West Virginia Conference and had been in the ministry about twenty years when serving this charge. The place where he preached during this

year are as follows: Arbovale, Boyer, Brush Run, Thornwood, Top Allegheny, North Fork School House, and Pine Grove. Arbovale church enjoyed a very good revival this summer, W. A. Grogg, assisting. Sixteen were received into the church."

Nothing else had been put on the records except Rev. Ben F. Donley, 1920-21, Rev. L. C. Harrie 1921-22, until 1933 when the Rev. J. M. Hyspe came on the circuit. " J. M. Hyspe - 1933-1937, Age 32 from Nicholas County. Preached at Arbovale, Frost, New Hope, Mt. Zion, Glover Lick, Boyer, C.C. Camp Seneca, Buchanan District-Arbovale Charge." Dr. L. S. Groat, Dist. Supt. 1933-35. Dr. J. S. Wells, Dist. Supt. 1936-37"

Records show the following class leaders, supt., trustee, stewards, etc. for 1919- 1921: C. G. Arbogast, O. G. Arbogast, J. O. Woods, J. D. Sutton, J. W. Hiley, J. E. Shears, Birdie Sutton, M. A. Sutton, Mrs. Coy Friel, W. R. Sutton, J. B. Granderff, William Malcom, Delbert Gillispie, Stella Conrad, Oscar Granderff, Morgan Rader, Henry Slackherst, Rachel Thompson.

Rev. Howard Wriston had kept good records and every members name had been put on the records. His records show a membership of 85 for the Arbovale church for 1940, many of them had been added to the class during his pastorate. Many of them young people.

The present trustees are: C. E. Flynn, Owen Rader, Adolphus Shears, Harry Simmons, Mrs. Clyde Gillispie.

Present Stewards: Nettie Sheets, Dessie Aracy, Owen Rader, Adolphus Shears, Glen Arbogast, Harry Simmons.

the annual Home Coming Day held on the first Sunday in August is an important event in this church. It was first organized about ten years ago by O. Glen Arbogast. Formerly they had been having song services once a month, and Mr. Arbogast thought it would be nicer to have one day set apart as Home Coming Day. He went ahead making plans, and on the first Sunday in August they had their first Home Coming Day. So many old friends came back on that day and so many of the former pastors came, too, that the people decided it would be a good thing to have Home Coming every year, so the first Sunday in August has been set aside as Home Coming Day for the people of the community. However, people from all over the county look forward to the day.

This year, 1940, Home Coming Day was held in the Tabernacle which was built in 1938 a short distance from the church. The deed for the land upon which the Tabernacle was built was given on August 10, 1939 by Rachel J. Arbogast and O. G. Arbogast her husband to J. B. Orndorff, Claude Tracy, and M. J. Moore, trustees for the Arbovale Inter-Denominational Holiness Association, an unincorporated organization. The land hereby conveyed to be used for religious purposes only and when it ceases to be used for religious purposes or is used for any other purpose the said land shall revert to and become the property of the parties of the first part.

Recent pastors of the Arbovale circuit are: Robert Greynolds, M. P. White, J. A. Arthurs, I. E. Lewis, Justin M. Hyden, A. C. Bell Howard Wriston, and the present one D. R. Carder.